



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAY 19 2017

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

WW-16J

Craig Butler, Director
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Re: Approval of 2016 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List

Dear Mr. Butler:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has conducted a complete review of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) 2016 Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) list, submitted to U.S. EPA as part of the State's 2016 CWA Section 303(d)/305(b) Integrated Report.

U.S. EPA hereby approves OEPA's 2016 CWA Section 303(d) list, including the list of impaired waters and associated pollutants, and OEPA's priority rankings for these waters and pollutants.

A copy of U.S. EPA's decision document is enclosed for your information. In reaching its decision, EPA has deferred to the State's judgment not to assess the open waters of the Western Basin of Lake Erie for the 2016 list. EPA recognizes the State's ongoing efforts to control nutrient pollution in the Western Basin of Lake Erie. EPA understands that Ohio EPA intends to evaluate options for developing objective criteria (e.g., microcystin or other metrics) for use in making decisions regarding the Western Basin for the 2018 list. EPA expects the development of appropriate metrics, and is committed to working with you on them.

Thank you for the submittal of OEPA's 2016 CWA Section 303(d) list.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ch. Korleski", is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Christopher Korleski
Director, Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Tiffani Kavalec, OEPA